



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE EMPLOYER NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2001

**VOLUNTARY TAX PAYMENTS**

Have you considered making a "Voluntary Payment" to reduce your unemployment tax rate for next year?

Early in January 2002, all employers will receive an annual Tax Rate Notice showing the data used to compute their individual rate. The Notice explains how much an employer can "voluntarily" pay to reduce their tax rate.

Please read the rate notice carefully and follow the instructions on the reverse side of the notice to determine whether or not making a voluntary payment would be beneficial.

**It may not always be advantageous to make an extra payment to obtain a lower rate, as the amount of the required voluntary payment might be more than the savings derived by paying at the lower rate.**

*A voluntary payment submitted to reduce your tax rate **is not** in lieu of any taxes due.*

If you need help in evaluating whether a voluntary payment could save you money, please call the Experience Rating Unit at (602) 248-9101 EXT 5501.

A VOLUNTARY PAYMENT MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN JANUARY 31ST OF THE CURRENT TAX YEAR.

**JOB TRAINING TAX UPDATE**

The staff of the Unemployment Insurance (UI) Tax Section would like to say "Thank You!" to the members of the Arizona employer community for their attention and cooperation with the new Arizona Job Training Tax (JTT).

As of September 30, 2001, the section has transferred over \$9,658,000.00 of Job Training Tax dollars collected to the Arizona Department of Commerce.

The quarterly UI Tax and Wage Report (UC-018) is the vehicle for computing and paying the JTT due. Line #7 calls for 0.10% (.001 decimal equivalent) of Line #3 - the Total Taxable Wages for the quarter. The result of this computation is added to the UI tax due and one check for the entire amount should be sent.

Please remember if there is any UI tax, penalty or interest due from current or prior quarters, all monies received will be used to pay these items first. Any remaining dollars will go to JTT. This may result in a quarterly statement for any JTT balance due.

Payment of the 0.10% JTT allows for potential participation in the Arizona Job Training reimbursement grant program offered through the Department of Commerce. Interested employers should contact the Arizona Department of Commerce at (602) 280-8133, (888) 677-8177 or by e-mail at [Job-Training@azcommerce.com](mailto:Job-Training@azcommerce.com).

**NEW HIRE REPORTING  
Employer Compliance**

Effective October 1, 1998, state and federal law require all employers to report each new and rehired employee to the State Directory of New Hires (Arizona Revised Statute 23-722.01, and Section 313, Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, 42 U.S.C. 653A).

In July 2001, the Arizona New Hire Reporting Center initiated an employer compliance campaign. The campaign targeted those employers appearing to be non-compliant in reporting all of their new hires during a defined period of time. In order to explain the new hire reporting requirement and the importance of compliance, an awareness packet was mailed to the targeted employers.

After reviewing preliminary feedback from employers, it is important to point out a couple of tips to remember when reporting your new hires:

- Use the same Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN) as that which is used to report the employee's wages on the quarterly report
- Ensure that the employee information is accurate (first, middle, and last names are clearly identified) and timely (within 20 days of the hire date)
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Since it's inception, Arizona's New Hire Reporting Program has helped many children receive the financial support they deserve and has also identified individuals who fraudulently received unemployment benefits. Our goal is to educate all employers about the law, the benefits of reporting, and assist employers in reporting their new hires in the quickest and easiest way.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at 602-340-0555 or toll-free at 888-282-2064. You can also visit our website at [www.az-newhire.com](http://www.az-newhire.com), where you will find a wealth of information about new hire reporting and our "new" online newsletter developed to assist employers.

Thank you for helping us support Arizona's children.

### ***CAREFUL WITH THOSE TAX RATES***

When preparing the quarterly Unemployment Tax and Wage Report (UC-018), please take care to use the rate indicated in Line #4 when computing the amount of tax due on "taxable wages paid" as shown on Line #3. Simply multiply the amount on Line #3 by the decimal equivalent of the rate and enter that amount on Line #4. Don't forget to check Line #7 for any Job Training Tax liability.

### ***ARIZONA REEMPLOYMENT RAPID ACCESS***

The Employment Security Administration (ESA) has a faster, more convenient method of processing Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims for laid off workers. The Arizona Reemployment Rapid Access (ARRA) system provides an option to file an initial claim by touch-tone telephone from any location rather than completing a paper document in a local office.

ARRA uses Interactive Voice Response (IVR) technology to capture "yes/no" and numeric responses to approximately 28 required questions. A telephone agent then interacts with the caller to obtain the remaining information needed to complete the claim. Telephones with direct lines to ARRA are available in each ESA Job Service local office throughout Arizona. The ARRA system is a complement to the weekly claim telephone system that has been available to Arizona residents since 1995.

Employers may use the same IVR system to obtain general UI information regarding benefits or ask questions regarding a specific UI claim. Option 2 on the IVR main menu is reserved for employers only.

The ARRA system can be accessed from 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Friday by calling the following numbers:

Greater Phoenix	602-364-2722
Greater Tucson	520-791-2722
Toll free	1-877-600-2722
TDD	1-877-877-6226